

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH  
NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DOCTORAL  
RESEARCH IN SOCIAL WORK**

**April 26, 2003  
The Ohio State University  
College of Social Work**

**Stillman Hall  
Ohio State University Campus  
Columbus, Ohio**

# Table of Contents

## Forward

Tony Tripodi, D.S.W. ....	iii
---------------------------	-----

## Keynote Address

Rena Harold

Professor and Coordinator of Graduate Programs, School of Social Work,  
Michigan State University

<i>Tradition, Continuity, and Legacy: The Role of Doctoral Programs in Social Work Education and the Profession</i> .....	1
---	---

## Presenters

David Crampton

Ph.D. The University of Michigan, 2001

<i>Making Sense of Foster Care: An Evaluation of Family and Group Decision Making in Kent County, Michigan</i> .....	13
--	----

Terry Lea Koenig

Ph.D. University of Kansas, 2001

<i>Ethical Dilemmas Faced by Women as Caregivers of Frail Elders: A Qualitative Study</i> .....	17
---	----

Marilyn Lewis

Ph.D. Columbia University, 2002

<i>Materna-fetal Bonding Among Pregnant Women Attending Prenatal Care: An Ecological Model</i> .....	24
--	----

Youngee Lim

Ph.D. The Ohio State University, 2002

<i>Estimating the Effect of the Fully Phased-in Earned Income Tax Credit on the Decline in Welfare caseloads between 1994 and 2000</i> .....	31
--	----

Jolyn Mikow

Ph.D. University of Houston, 2002

<i>The Impact of Family, Ethnicity and Acculturation on Substance Use Among Mexican-American Adolescent Females: A Comparison of High Risk and Low Risk Groups</i> .....	35
--	----

Sung Seek Moon

Ph.D. University of Georgia, 2002

***Multicultural/Multimodal Multisystems Approach  
for Immigrant Families: Structural Equation Modeling  
of Adolescent Perception of Conflict with Parents*** \_\_\_\_\_ 44

Sean Newsome

Ph.D. The Ohio State University, 2002

***The Effectiveness and Utility of Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT)  
with At-Risk Junior High School Students: A Quasi-Experimental Study*** \_\_ 50

Nicole Nicotera

Ph.D. University of Washington, 2002

***Children and Their Neighborhoods: A Mixed Methods Approach  
to Understanding the Construct Neighborhood*** \_\_\_\_\_ 58

# Foreword

On April 26, 2003, The Ohio State University College of Social Work hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Doctoral Symposium, continuing the rich tradition of disseminating high quality, new research in the profession. These *Proceedings* showcase the dissertation research that was presented at this unique forum.

This year's keynote speaker, Rena Harold, Professor and Coordinator of Graduate Programs, School of Social Work, Michigan State University, began our symposium by addressing "Tradition, Continuity, and Legacy: The Role of Doctoral Programs in Social Work Education and the Profession" to the faculty, practitioners, and recent Ph.D. recipients who were present. Her thoughtful remarks provided an opportunity for all those involved in doctoral education to reflect on the foundations, philosophies, and goals of doctoral education in social work.

In addition, eight recent graduates of social work programs throughout the country were invited to share their research at the symposium. The abstracts in the following pages illustrate the rich diversity of research being conducted by doctoral students and the variety of doctoral programs in North America. Their dissertation research will certainly serve as models for future scholarship, fostering knowledge building in the field of social work.

To all those who took part in the 2002 Symposium, we express our sincere thanks. We offer these *Proceedings* to the constantly expanding knowledge base that influences the social work profession.

Tony Tripodi, DSW  
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